



For more info on PACT Group, check out pactgroup.com/nz/

PACT Group operates across multiple industries, providing packaging solutions made from recycled materials, as well as offering services to enhance resource recovery and waste management.

With a focus on sustainability, the company aims to support businesses in meeting their environmental goals while contributing to a more sustainable future.



Type of person

- Able to work independantly
- Can use initiative
- Problem solver
- Logical and practically-minded

- Has an interest in mechanical work
- Comfortable lifting heavy weights
- Enjoys hands-on work
- Not afraid of getting dirty

To find out more about this sector, profiles of young people like you in the industry, and career tools and tips...

scan here



BEN WALLACE
DIE SETTER/FITTER



The FutureForce® Crew sat down with Ben to chat about his role...

WHAT IS A DIE SETTER/FITTER?

Here at PACT we have multiple jobs running at once. On this team we make bottles and bins, and my role here is to make sure that these machines run smoothly. I take the tool out of the machine and change everything in the machine over and start it back up and back into production.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS WORK?

I did a pre-trade at Wintec where they took us on a walk through at Pact. They said they had apprenticeships going at the time and I thought it looked like a good place to work!

WHAT IS BLOW MOULDING?

We extrude a tube of plastic and close a tool around it, then blow it into shape. As it comes out you have all the excess plastic which you punch off and then we will leak test it to ensure durability.

TOP CAREER TIP

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND WORK IT OUT, STICK TO IT AND YOU WILL GET THERE EVENTUALLY.

WHAT DOES YOUR WORK DAY LOOK LIKE?

I do shift work so alternate through the various 8-hour shifts, day, afternoon and night shifts. Each shift is an 8 hour day 5 times a week. In the beginning you just have to stick it out, and it can be pretty rough to begin with.

WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS IN YOUR LINE OF WORK?

I love that it is 8 hour shifts, I do not have to travel far from home, and I can have a good work life balance and separate my work and home life.

BEN WALLACE
DIE SETTER/FITTER



TIPS & ADVICE

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FOUND?

Learning how to deal with different people. There are a lot of personalities on site which may be different to yours, so having patience is key. This is the same with every workplace. Getting used to the rotating shift work has also been difficult.

WHAT DO YOU WISH SOMEONE TOLD YOU WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL?

Probably to take a bit longer to jump into a job. Try to find the time to figure out where you want to go and what you want to do. Save as much money as possible. It is common to go on a spending spree when you get a job, but you never know what will happen so you want these foundations.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS HAVE YOU GOT, AND WHAT MIGHT BE YOUR NEXT STEP?

I have done a Certificate in Plastics Processing Technology (Technical) (Level 3) with strand Extrusion Blow Moulding, first aid certificate, gantry crane operator, and forklift license.

If a technician spot opened up I would love to step up to that. Technicians are in charge of certain machines and make sure they are working well, and they also oversee the process.

KEY TERMS TO KNOW

TOOL

» The term 'tool' broadly refers to any piece of equipment that assists in the manufacturing process. The term 'tool' can also be used to describe a die or mould.

DIE

» This is the specialised mould that shapes the molten plastic into a specific product as it is extruded from the machine.

WHAT SORT OF PERSON DO YOU HAVE TO BE?

In this role there is a lot of learning on the job and teaching yourself, so you have to be able to work independently and show initiative. Sometimes breakdowns happen that you may not have seen before so problem solving and trouble shooting skills are needed. You also need to be someone who is logical and practically-minded.

You need an interest in mechanical work, should like to be hands-on, able to lift heavy and not afraid to get dirty. Our workshop can also get quite hot because of the heat of the plastic, which takes getting used to.

